# \*\*\*\*\*\*\* A SALUTE TO \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* CAMP ROBBRES

★★★★★★ Sixty-Five Years of Service ★★★★★

NOVEMBER 8, 2005

# Did You Know?

Compiled by Lisa Norris
CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

- \* It took 8,000 men seven months to construct Camp Roberts
- \* The actual date of completion was July 15, 1941
- \* Construction costs, less land costs, were \$16,330,155.76

Capt J.T. Smoody, a Reserve

- Construction QM Officer was sent from Ohio to oversee construction
- \* 64 of 199 days of construction were spent in rain Rainfall was a record 39.90 inches at the Ranch House
- \* Captain Smoody wrote in his completion report: "No amount of wages or compensation is sufficient reward for the energy put forth in spite of the most unfavorable working conditions during construction"
- \* It was written that only a sense of patriotism and dedication kept these people working on this project. It was not just for money; it was an answer to the country's call.
- \* Six decades later this remains the mindset at Camp Roberts.

Fortunately, some things don't change.

### **INSIDE:**



A year's worth of mobilization activity at Camp Roberts.

See Page 2



The community rallies to support troops at Camp Roberts.

See Page 6



Camp Roberts
Museum showcases
desert warfare
See Page 7



Photos by Franco Federici

# 65 Years of Service and Counting

Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake
CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

nder the threat of the gathering clouds of war in 1940, what would become known as Camp Roberts began to rise from the coastal desert north of Paso Robles, a town so small that its Henry Boulware's Paso Robles Pharmacy could be reached by asking the telephone operator to connect you to "1."

By the time World War II ended, Camp Roberts had train hundreds of thousands of soldiers to serve around the world for the U.S. Army. And as quickly as the camp had come to life, it slowly drifted off to become a sleepy post that was only supposed to serve the needs of the Army for the five years of the war, but no one had the desire or money to tear-like the strength of the stre

Which was fortunate, as a little more than five years later, Camp Roberts needed to be woken again and hit the ground running, training tens of thousands more soldiers for service in the Korean War. And again, just as quickly as it came back to life, it fell into a deeper slumber when its mission was once again complete.

In the years that followed, Camp Roberts was called upon from timeto-time to provide training for small numbers of active Army soldiers who would go on to serve in Vietnam or elsewhere in the Cold War. Eventually custody of the camp went to the California Army National Guard and the camp would come to life in the summer, providing refresher training in combat skills for soldiers of the Guard.

At age 60, when most folks and even most soldiers are heading into their well earned retirement, the Terror Attacks of September 11, 2001, demanded a military response. And once again, Camp Roberts rose up to answer the call of the nation.

Like the good soldiers it trains, Camp Roberts is changing to meet the needs of the fight: smaller numbers of soldiers training at a time requires less mass, so the camp is shedding its unused buildings. At the same time, the modern battlefield is heavy with technologies that were not even a dream when Camp Roberts was born—and the camp is in a constant state of change, updating facilities and its technology to train soldiers with the "latest and greatest."

Although the times, technology, weapons and the world have changed radically over 65 years, the basic mission of Camp Roberts has not: to teach the Warfighter in the soldier skills he or she needs to survive. After 65 years, it is a job Camp Roberts does well.

# The U.S. Army: a Historical Perspective

Lt. Col. Keith Lochner,
DEPUTY COMMANDER, CAMP ROBERTS

he US Army of 1940 and of 2005 have little in common except for a strong sense of tradition, enemy forces that are willing to make great sacrifices, common values, and public opinion as a weapon. When the US entered World War II its military forces were ill-prepared from a stand point of training, equipment, and size. When America entered into the Global War on Terrorism the US Army was a very technically advanced, highly-trained and decidedly lethal force on the battlefield. Even though common soldier skills or field-craft does not change dramatically, the tools of the trade do.

It is 1940 America and the US Army is a shell of its former self being left to a small standing army of some 100,000 soldiers using broom sticks as weapons and cardboard mock-ups as vehicles to train with. Our government policy of isolationism has led us to turn a blind eye to world events and the massive oceans that separate us from our European and Asian antagonists gives us a false hope of security. The "war to end all wars" had passed and we won. How can there be another? Then a surprise attack against the American Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in December 1941,

and America finds itself in another

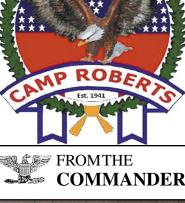
world war, fighting on multiple

fronts with an inexperienced, but

determined, Army. Now shift to America 2001 with a fully modernized, technologically advanced military using weapons of great precision and lethality. The training: a combination of high-tech constructive (computer war games), virtual (simulations) and live training venues. An Army of over two million with a wide range of experience from Panama to Desert Storm to Bosnia, and a number of other peace-keeping operations around the world. With all the might at our disposal, and our shift from an isolationist foreign policy of the 1930's to an expansive support policy of the 1990's, we again had massive

loss of life due to a surprise attack. The training philosophy of the 1940's was focused on the massing of lethal fires at the right place and time in order to defeat the enemy and establish the conditions for a political resolution and a cessation of hostilities against enemy nationstates. Our training was based on the equipment of the day. Line-of-sight weapons dominated. World War II combat engagements occurred within a few hundred yards to within feet of the combat soldier. Training included hand-to-hand combat and focus on Close Quarters Combat (CQC). Today, the Army's ability to find and attack enemy forces from miles away with pin-point accuracy has reduced the requirement for

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# Welcome to Camp Roberts

ure and pride that I welcome the reader to Camp Roberts! We are a full-service joint military training center; actively involved in the training and mobilization of National Guard, Army Reserve, and Active Component units performing Federal, State, and community missions. With more than 42,000 acres, 25 ranges and diverse training areas, Camp Roberts offers units and soldiers the opportunity to train in a realistic environment, enabled by world-class support.

The last twelve months have been a busy time for the installation. Thousands of National Guardsmen, Army Reserve Soldiers, and Marines were trained, mobilized, and/or demobilized at Camp Roberts. Indeed, this is the largest mobilization of the National Guard since the Korean Conflict. Seventy soldiers from our own garrison staff are currently deployed in Kosovo, Iraq, Sinai, Kuwait, or Afghanistan. Camp Roberts' personnel and equipment also supported National Guard relief operations, vicinity New Orleans, to mitigate the loss of life and property, safeguard health, and provide for public safety.

Along with this increase in operations, Camp Roberts also experienced a corresponding swell in construction and modernization activities. Older weapons ranges were updated with automation and solar-powered target systems (popups). Two new medical buildings were added to the Soldier Readiness Processing Center. The old 1000seat theater was refurbished and rechristened, "Victory Hall." Fortyeight barrack buildings and the associated mess halls, laundry rooms and day rooms were renovated. Electrical and gas utility systems were likewise modernized.

Mark your 2006 calendars. Camp Roberts is planning to hold a community open house and barbecue on May 6th. The purpose of the event is to advance understanding between the local civilian and military communities and to provide command information to our own military community regarding family support issues, public safety, and other issues.

Thank you for supporting your Camp Roberts. We appreciate the community's support and I especially want to thank the Paso Robles Press for this opportunity to tell our story."

JOHN F. SMITH COL, FA, CA ARNG Commanding

# Pre-Mobilization and De-Mobilization

All in a day's (or a year's) work

Lisa Norris CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

'n January of this year approximately 500 soldiers from across the state completed pre-mobilization processing in preparation for a mission in support of Operation Enduring

These troops were part of a Multi-Force Task Force called Joint Task Force GTMO 6, and is comprised of Active Component Army, National Guard, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and Air Force members. The California National Guard members 40th Infantry Headquarters, Division Artillery, the 1/18th Cavalry Squadron, and members of the 1/143rd Field Artillery Battalion and 1/144th Field Artillery Battalion. They will be mobilized for 18 months, serving one year in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, returning to California next summer.

### **DEMOBILIZATION—MISSION** ACCOMPLISHED

It normally takes a power projection platform one year to prepare to demobilize soldiers from the time they deploy to coming home. Normally. Camp Roberts was given seven days.

In February and March 2005, Camp Roberts hosted a pilot program to demobilize CAARNG soldiers of the 81st Brigade Combat Team (BCT) at a site other then where they mobilized from, Ft Lewis, WA. The pilot program, an initiative of the 5th US Army and the California National Guard, would test two concepts; one, demobilizing (PHASE II) at an installation other than the original mobilization site, and two, can Camp Roberts conduct all PHASE II tasks

The pilot program would see over 480 soldiers, many from the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, demobilize in three groups at Camp Roberts. To



Capt. William J. Stoesser assumes command of the 756th Transportation Truck Company and receives the "colors" from Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Richard P. Martin.

say the pilot program was a success would be an understatement. Both concepts were validated and many assumptions were laid to rest as California Army National Guard soldiers from over 21 separate detachments and companies demobilized during the period of 9 February to 5 March. It was a statewide effort that placed the right personnel and resources at Camp Roberts in a very short period of time. In some cases many leaders were heard saying "How'd they do that?" in reference to the quick planning, synchronizing, resourcing, and execution by Camp Roberts, 40th ID(M), 49th JCSC, and JFHQ.

### ARMY RESERVE UNIT SUCCESSFULLY TRAINS FOR **DEPLOYMENT TO IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN**

Also In March, about 700 soldiers from the US Army Reserve's 351st Civil Affairs Command trained at Camp Roberts, preparing to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan. It had been since the Korean War era since an Army Reserve unit prepared for deployment at Camp Roberts. The unit chose Camp Roberts over several other West Coast installations. According to Col. Don Amburn, the unit's public affairs officer, the unit decided to train at Camp Roberts because



"When you look at everything, Camp Roberts was the best for us. I've been very impressed by how we have been treated here." The reserve unit soldiers were not preparing for combat specifically. A civil affairs unit's duties typically include road and civil works projects, government restructuring, and the establishment of schools and other facili-

"Unequivocally this has been the best support we have ever received in pre-deployment training," said David Brigadier General Blackledge. "It's been unbelievably enjoyable to go through pre-deployment training at Camp Roberts."

### THEATER-SPECIFIC **INDIVIDUAL READINESS** TRAINING CENTER— **INVALUABLE RESOURCE**

In April and May, the 115th Area Support Group, based in Roseville, prepared for overseas deployment at the Theater-Specific Individual Readiness Training Site.

The training was tailored to scenarios they might encounter and included countermine operations, responding to IEDs (improvised explosive devices), incoming artillery, small-arms fire and cultural sensitivities. To add realism to certain scenarios and help sharpen situational awareness, the TSIRT site employs a Muslim call to prayer broadcast over loudspeakers and trainers dress as insurgents and civilians.

### **756TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY—IRAQ BOUND**

On July 28, 2005 soldiers of the Transportation Truck Company (POL) bid farewell to family and friends at Camp Roberts. The unit comprised of over 170 soldiers from armories throughout the

state, will provide transportation of bulk fuel to units all over Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 756th Transportation Company will serve up to 18 months, includ-

ing 12-14 months in Iraq. The unit conducted a Change of Command ceremony where Capt. William J. Stoesser assumed command of the company and received the colors from Battalion Commander, Lt Col. Richard Martin.

### 315TH ENGINEERS (SECFOR)

On October 28, soldiers of the 315th Engineers completed soldier readiness processing, common task training in soldier skills and a field training exercise at Camp Roberts.

The unit will be formally mobilized onto active duty in early 2006 and will be providing Security Force (SECFOR) duties in Afghanistan.

# Community Leaders tour Camp Roberts



October 28th Camp **Roberts hosted a Community** Leaders Visit to acquaint local elected officials and business leaders with the history of the installation, it's mission, and vision for the future. The group also had the pleasure of meeting the California National Guard's Adjutant General, William H. Wade II, and hearing his vision for the nation's busiest national guard.

RIGHT: Maj. Gen. Wade addressing the group.

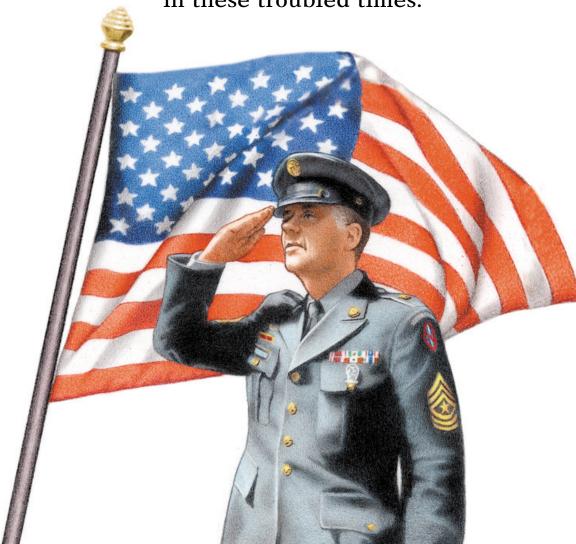
ABOVE: Cliff Smith of Supervisor Harry Ovitt's office, Meg Williamson, Paso Robles Assistant City Manager, Councilmember Charlie Morales of Gilroy, and Paso Robles Mayor Pro Tem Jim Heggarty "combat the enemy" in the Engagement Skills Trainer at

Camp Roberts.



### DeCou Lumber and Ace Hardware salute the women and men of the Armed Forces.

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# NBC Today Show Features Camp Roberts

Lisa Norris
CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

amp Roberts and its collection of recovered wallets were the subjects of a recent feature on the American Story segment of the NBC morning news program, Today.

Reporter Bob Dotson and a crew from NBC News told the story of the wallets that have been discovered in the heating ducts of buildings being demolished over the years and of the return of one of the wallets to the family of the late Staff Sgt. Perfecto Pacheco-Ramos, a Korean War veteran who served as a cook at Camp Roberts in the mid-

Perfecto's son, Jose, and his daughter Lilly, learned of the recovery of their father's wallet, which was unusually full of personal papers and documents, from a friend of Jose's, who had read about the camp's wallet finds in an article in the Los Angeles Times. They later flew to California to claim their father's wallet and visit the camp at which he had served, and were met by the NBC crew.

More than 30 wallets, most from the World War II and Korean War eras. have been found over the years at the camp and most all of them have been returned to the veteran or his surviving family by Lt. Gary Huff of the Fort Hunter Liggett Police Department. A more recent article in the Times showcased five more wallets in the care of the Camp Roberts Museum and resulted in two claims within a week. Only two wallets remain unclaimed.

It is believed that most of the wallets were stolen from soldiers as a crime of opportunity around pay-

large ground formations during con-

ventional operations. However, our

current operations in Iraq and

Afghanistan have brought us back to

engagements with a few hundred

yards to a few feet. With the advent

of combating insurgents, our soldier

training has gone full circle and

emphasis is again on hand-to-hand

German field marshal "The reason

the American Army is so good is

that war is chaos and the American

Army practices chaos on a daily

basis." In the 1990's our training

philosophy was similar. However,

we expected our forces to be numer-

ically outnumbered while techno-

logically advanced. Our doctrine

had changed to match our expected

antagonists and capabilities, yet our

ability to adapt, overcome and make

on-the-spot adjustments has not

changed as noted by one former

Soviet general saying," The problem

with planning operations against the

American Army is that they have

doctrine but continually fail to fol-

In the 1940's our industrial strength

and ability to field large ground and

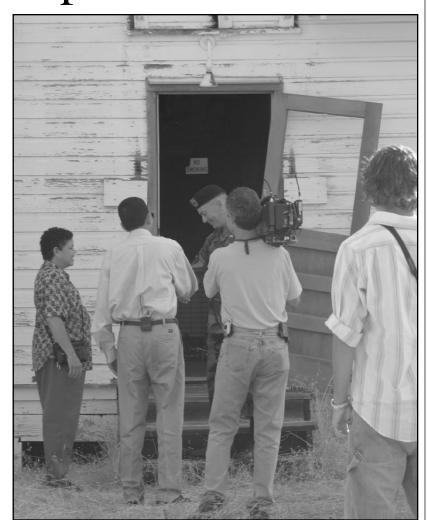
naval formations proved too much

The execution of operation in World War II was characterized by a

HISTORY

training and CQC.

Continued from Pg. 1



Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake presents Jose Pacheco and his sister, Lilly, with their father's long lost wallet. Jose and Lilly traveled to Camp Roberts from Texas.

day in a time when the Army paid soldiers in cash.

The wallet would be stolen in an unguarded moment, the cash removed, and the remaining potentially-incriminating evidence "ditched" with an easy overhead shot into the nearby and very convenient heating ducts that ran down the center of the World War II-era barracks.

The Museum has an excellent example of such a wallet on display that was donated to the Museum by the family of the veteran who had his wallet stolen here.

for both the German and Japanese forces. Our training in both the 1940's and 1990's did not fully prepare us for insurgency operations we are faced with in Iraq and Afghanistan: a numerically inferior force and technically disadvantaged, yet very imaginative enemy who has been proven to be extremely adaptive. The expense of fielding large formations, such as in the 1940's, would be cost prohibitive today, but with our years of research and as large an army. Our training vision technology, which enhances maps to computer maps and systems that provide instantaneous informa-

tion for leaders to base decisions on. Today's soldier that is new to warfare has an inadvertent advantage gained through non-military technology such as video games, the Internet (former military technology), and satellite communications, to name a few. Today's soldier has developed eye/hand coordination on an unparalleled scale allowing the use of faster and more accurate weapons systems. Today's soldiers are more informed both on and off the battlefield. However, the soldiers of the 1940's did not need these advantages as common soldier weapons such as the M1 rifle with iron sights, fragmentary grenades, the M4 "Sherman" tank with a 75mm main gun, and an anti-tank

bazooka did not require a highlydeveloped eye/hand coordination. In addition, the flow of battle was slow enough to allow for communication limitations. The modern soldier is equipped with M4 carbine rifles with Close Combat Optics that enhance targeting, flash and fragmentary grenades, M1A2 main battle tanks with 120mm main guns, and a multitude of anti-tank missiles at his/her disposal. One definite advantage is the ability to operate development we don't have to field effectively at night through night ual soldier level.

The core values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage have remained the same since the professional inception of the American military as a profession. It is these values that create the common bond between Americans from throughout the country and form them into the "Army of One."

Although technology and the way the army trains has changed, its mission has not, to defend our culture and way of life against those who would impose their will upon us. We remain a tool for our elected leadership to use when diplomacy fails in order to re-establish the conditions for diplomacy to resume. Our soldiers are the best because we train to be the best.

# Local leaders reflect on Camp Roberts' importance **CONGRESSMAN BILL THOMAS**

eterans Day serves as time to reflect on the many sacrifices made millions Americans so that we may all enjoy the freedoms we have in our everyday lives. Our nation's veterans made a solemn commitment to the United States and we are indebted to them for their service and dedication. We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude.

As we honor the many generations of veterans that have defended our freedoms, we also honor those who currently wear the military uniform and are currently stationed thousands of miles away from those they love. I thank the troops at Camp Roberts, which has a long and storied history in the defense of our

Individuals at Camp Roberts from World War II to the present Global War on Terrorism have voluntarily placed their lives in danger to promote peace and freedom around the world. We as Americans offer our thanks and our pledge to never forget their heroism and sacrifice for our country. -Congressman Bill Thomas



### STATE SENATOR ABEL MALDONADO

ince its establishment 65 years ago as one of the world's largest military training facilities, more than one million servicemen and servicewomen have called Camp Roberts their home at one time or another.

Throughout its distinguished history, Camp Roberts has played a vital role in the defense of our country, as well as serving as a valuable member of our community.

While the day-to-day activities of Camp Roberts have changed over the years, the core mission has always remained the same: to ensure uniform receive the best possible training.

The soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who have come and gone through the gates of Camp Roberts have traveled the globe in defense of freedom, from the battles of World War II to today's conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Today, many of our friends and

loved ones, serving in California's National Guard, Army Reserve and Marines, continue to arrive at Camp Roberts for their military training.

That is why it is so important that we not forget the sacrifices they

that our brave men and women in are making in the defense of our nation, our communities, and our families.

> Therefore, on this Veterans' Day, on behalf of me and my family, I wish to offer my sincere appreciation to our gallant men and women in uniform, including those who, for a time, called Camp Roberts their

Through their selfless devotion, their dedication, their hard work, and their sacrifices, America continues to be blessed as "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Thank you and God Bless. -Senator Abel Maldonado

### **MAYOR FRANK MECHAM**

amp Roberts has always been considered a part of our community. From WWII to today, the men and women that have been assigned to this base have been an integral part of our daily lives.

They work, shop, recreate and their children are a part of our schools. It is important to recognize that Camp Roberts is not only a part of our community family, but it is also a major player in our economy.

Over the years Camp Roberts has contributed to our city in a variety of ways in peace time and in

The City of Paso Robles recog-

nizes the benefit of maintaining a solid and positive relationship with those that protect and defend this great nation. As Camp Roberts expands its responsibilities and its capabilities, the City of Paso Robles stands ready and willing to assist them in any way. We salute those men and women

at Camp Roberts, the civilian men and women that work there, and continue to welcome them into our community. Respectfully,

-Mayor Frank Mecham



# How to get a job at Camp Roberts

Maj. Staci-Ann Kato CAMP ROBERTS PERSONNEL AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

o you need money? Are you looking for a job? Were you always interested in working at Camp Roberts or for the California Army National Guard? We have jobs for you! We have several types of employment with a variety of occupations and classifications available.

Listed are websites to help you get started. Check it out!

Join the National Guard

www.1800goguard.com

Technician/ Active Guard and Reserve (AGR)

www.calguard.ca.gov/cahr/jobmain.html

Active Duty Special Work www.portal.ca.ngb.army.mil/sites/c aot/positions/default.aspx

**Counter Drug Task Force** 

www.calguard.ca.gov/cdtf/jobs/

**State Active Duty** 

www.calguard.ca.gov/casp/jobs/sad

**State Civil Service** www.calguard.ca.gov/casp/jobs/scs/

Veteran's Day Ceremony

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2005, 11:00 AM at the Paso Robles District Cemetery

Additional employment opportunities outside of the California Army National Guard:

**Troops to Teachers** 

www.ed.gov/programs/troops/index

**Helmets to Hardhats** 

www.helmetstohardhats.org/home.a

California Employment **Development Department** 

**Transition Assistance Program** www.edd.ca.gov/eddv.htm

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Invocation Reverend Jim Damewood Plymouth Congregational Church

Remarks

Rosie Flynn Cemetery Office Manager

Welcome

Tom Harrington

by Laurie Valaau

**Guest Speaker** General Muggelberg, Retired

Placing of the Wreaths Mr. & Mrs. John Furster

American Legion Post 50 Jim Grant & Sherry Reeger VFW Post 10965 & Aux.

> **Closing Prayer** Pastor Don Smith Christian Life Center

**Honor Guard** VFW Post 10965, American Legion

Post 50 TAPS - Ward Clark, VFW Post 10965

Refreshments served by the Board of Trustees of the PRDC. Sound by Clifford Munk

Flags on grave markers placed by the American Legion Post 50 & VFW Post 10965.

★★★★ SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE ★★★★

# Army Converting to New Field Uniform

Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

orth County residents, long-familiar with seeing military personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force in their "Battle Dress Uniform" (BDU) in its darker "woodland camouflage," increasingly familiar with Army soldiers in their lighter, sandier colored "Desert Combat Uniform" (DCU), and even the occasional Marine in their distinctive "digital print," are now beginning to see a new uniform look: the "Army Combat Uniform" (ACU).

Introduced last June during ceremonies celebrating the Army's birthday, the ACU is a uniform that was designed with extensive consultation with its Non-Commissioned Officer's corps, the sergeants that comprise the Army's "middle management."

Three versions and 10,000 sets of the ACU were extensively field tested by members of the elite Stryker Brigade under combat conditions in Iraq and at Army training centers across the U.S. before their final design was approved.

The camouflage pattern is perhaps the most striking change in the Army's newest uniform. In addition to adapting a digitally-created pattern first introduced by the Marine Corps, the ACU is further distinguished by not having any black in its camouflage pattern, a first for Army camouflage uniforms. Black is not a color commonly found in nature and it is a color that immediately catches the eye, according to Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre of the Army's Clothing and Individual Equipment office.

The colors selected for the ACU are also different than the colors selected by the Marine Corps.

"The color scheme in the ACU capitalizes on the environments that we operate in," Myhre said. "The current colors on the ACU are green-woodland, grey-urban environments and sand brown-desert. The pattern is not a 100-percent solution in every environment, but a good solution across the board."

The ACU will allow one uniform to be worn in all theaters of operation, eliminating the need for the Army to issue the DCU to soldiers deploying to desert combat zones as well as eliminate the need and expense for soldiers to maintain two separate combat uniforms.

Another immediately-noticeable change is the "Mandarin-style" collar that can be folded-up to cover the neck when worn with body armor to



Camp Roberts Deputy Commander Lt.Col. Keith Lochner wears the Army Combat Uniform with "patrol cap." While the beret will be the normal headgear worn with the ACU, local commanders may direct wearing of the "patrol cap," especially in field training conditions.

shirt collar being pressed into the skin under the weight of the body armor, but also to reduce chaffing of the neck caused by the body armor and equipment worn over the top of it. The collar is worn down off the neck like a conventional shirt collar when body armor is not being worn.

Patches, tabs, and tags are affixed to the uniform using Velcro, allowing them to be removed before the end of 2007, although the unilaundering to increase the life of the attachment, and eliminating the cost of sewing the attachments to the

The individual's insignia of rank, previously on the collar of the BDU and DCU, are now a single cloth tab in the middle of the shirt. Officers, who previously wore the branch insignia of their specialty, only by their "California" nametape such as Infantry, Field Artillery, instead of the "U. S. Army" Armor, etc, no longer wear branch nametape worn by the active Army, insignia on the ACU.

Boots worn with ACU are the brown combat type already issued with the DCU. Soldiers will enjoy time and cost savings with both the brown combat boot and the ACU as this story.

not only eliminate the pressure of a the boots, with their rough leather exterior cannot be polished, while the ACU is made of wrinkle-resistant material that is not to be starched, allowing it to be washed like conventional clothing.

The Army is presently issuing the ACU to members of the active component. National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers are expected to have the ACU issued to them by form is available as an optional purchase by those soldiers who wish to

The familiar BDU will not be completely going away, however. Members of the California State Military Reserve, the reserve component of the California National Guard, are presently distinguished Army Reserve, and active National Guard, will be wearing the BDU for the foreseeable future.

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs, Army News Service, contributed to



Veteran Joe Fraccola personally delivering decks of playing cards to troops of the 351st Civil Affairs Command, USAR, one the eve of their deployment to Iraq. To date, Mr. Fraccola has collected 67,635 decks of cards.

### Multi-functional Entertainment Device Provided to Deploying Soldiers

Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake
CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

combat veteran who never forgot the kindness of strangers who sent "care packages" during a war that ended 60 years ago and remembers a simple luxury still enjoyed by soldiers today, is "passing it forward" to soldiers training at Camp Roberts.

When Joe Fraccola of Gold River, Calif., a small town near Sacramento, saw troops becoming involved in Operation Enduring Freedom and saw the conditions under which the troops were serving, he decided to help in his own way—providing the troops with an entertainment device. One that was light, easy to carry in a combat ruck, easy to operate, required no batteries, didn't jam if dust or sand got into it, and provided multiple playing options.

### **PLAYING CARDS**

If anyone should understand what today's soldiers experience and appreciate the fact that being in a combat zone can mean long hours of tedious work, punctuated by moments of sheer terror, it would be Fraccola. A "combat engineer" in the Southwest Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II, his involvement in that war ended one day on a Pacific island when enemy fighter planes attacked his base.

Seeking cover behind a vehicle, when the driver of another moving vehicle jumped out and fled for cover, Fraccola was pinned between the two, leaving him with permanent disabilities that still trouble him all these years later.

No longer able to serve in the military directly, Fraccola went on to a career as a civilian employee of the Air Force, even doing a "hitch" in Vietnam for more than two years as a radar systems advisor. He spent his life after civil service helping non-profit organizations with their public relations and fundraising efforts. He became active in, and eventually a life member of, the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As part of his "Project Enduring Freedom," Fraccola collected over 50,000 decks of 'retired' playing cards from casinos. He later added dice and undeliverable magazines from local post offices to his shipping effort. However, the work of gathering and coordinating shipping of such a vast amount of material was exhausting for the then-78year-old disabled veteran. Fraccola declared his work done when the last 40,700-plus decks of cards shipped to a USO warehouse in Maryland in 2003.

However, as they say, you can't keep a good man down. In Fraccola's case, you can't keep a good man in retirement, either.

Fraccola, who will be 82 this

coming July, has already raised 5,000 decks of playing cards and furnished them to the California Military Department headquarters. Learning that Camp Roberts is where California Army National Guard soldiers go to train for mobilization, he raised 5,000 more decks from Artichoke Joe's, a casino in San Bruno, and Cache Creek Casino, an Indian gaming resort northwest of Sacramento. He then drove them to Camp Roberts, presenting more than 400 decks to the soldiers of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command, an Army Reserve unit training at Camp Roberts. The remaining cards will be stored at Camp Roberts and distributed through soldier support activities to future units processing through the

For his troubles, Fraccola only asks for the pleasure of the opportunity to provide a little "creature comfort" to a soldier, a comfort he can still remember 60 years later. "A lot of them will be deployed to austere conditions," he says. "These donations will enhance a continuing success in providing some pleasure for the men and women away from home."

Fraccola's "bonus" for this trip was a smile of appreciation or a "thank you," and an exchange of handshakes between someone who is going—and someone who can appreciate what they are going to

# Help name the new Oak Grove

amp Roberts will soon begin planting the seedlings of a new Oak Grove on the installation. This grove will be along the installation's frontage on Highway 101 and will be part of a new green belt with the completion of demolition in the 1000 and 2000 barracks areas.

We want your help in naming this grove. Please submit your ideas not later than December 15th to: Camp Roberts Headquarters

Lisa Norris, Bldg 109 Camp Roberts, CA 93451-5000 Entries will be presented to the Camp Roberts Beautification Committee and a selection presented to the Commander.

# Hunting and Fishing at Camp Roberts

Camp Roberts permit and California State tags stamps are required to hunt at Camp Roberts. The total participants for the 2005 10-day hunt in Aug./Sept. was 1,257; significantly up from 2004. There were 23 deer harvested, five pigs, 25 rabbits and 2,778 dove;. twice as many dove taken than last There are still several hunts

remaining this year. See schedule below:

### **November Hunt:**

NOV 19-20 for turkey, quail, waterfowl, dove, pig, and rabbit. Hours 5:30 am to 6:00 pm.

### **Holiday Hunt:**

DEC 3-4, 10-11, 17-18 and DEC 27-31 for rabbit, pig, quail, waterfowl, pigeon, and dove (Please check California State regulations for season dates for allowable game species). Hours are 6:00 am to 6:00 pm.

It is the hunter's and angler's responsibility to know the applicable California State regulations for hunting and fishing.

Permits are available for sale during hunting and fishing periods at the wildlife check station at Gate 3, located near the East Garrison exit from Highway 101. Schedules. maps, and opening day reservation forms can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope, along with your request, to the address listed below or by visiting the website. Hunters and anglers MUST register at the check station every day and MUST also turn in registration forms with harvest results at the close of EACH DAY.

For more information, contact Camp Roberts at the taped information line, 238-8167 or visit www.calguard.ca.gov/cprbts and click on the link to environmental, hunting and fishing.

**NOTE:** Hunting and Fishing may be closed on short notice due to military operations. Call ahead for possible changes. Unless indicated, no reservations are required.

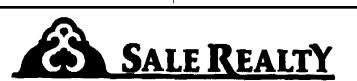


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Camp Roberts Public Works Carpenters Bobby Holmes and Joe Klein, both from Paso Robles, finish the new roof on the Front Gate guard shack.

# Camp Roberts Public Works

Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

hey are the Directorate with the largest of nearly everything on Camp Roberts: largest staff, largest budget, largest fleet of vehicles, and have largest collection of tools and supplies. They are involved in seven of the 10 pages of the Commander's Strategic Plan. They bring in and distribute electricity and gas, and handle the camp's water needs from "cradle-tograve," pumping out of the ground, purifying it, storing it, distributing it, collecting the waste water and treating it before it leaves the camp.

Yet the mission of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) is comparatively simple, according to its Director, Lt. Col. Kevin Brown: "Whatever it takes to keep the California National Guard aggressively training."

More recently, the mission was briefly expanded to include preparations to receive up to 3,000 people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Although it was eventually decided to keep the displaced civilians closer to their homes in the Gulf States, the DPW was already "decisively engaged," with crews checking all the buildings and areas to ensure they were in satisfactory condition for their proposed inhabitants. Although it was substantially the same processes the DPW staff goes through to prepare to receive a unit for training, training requirements are known well in advance with preparation and maintenance scheduled over a period of time—with Hurricane Katrina, there would have been no time for a scheduled effort.

When Camp Roberts was constructed at the beginning of World War II, it was originally only intended to serve for five years. SIXTYfive years later, it still is going, but like people its age, it needs considerably more maintenance than it did when it was younger.

Constructed of the finest "oldgrowth" hardwoods that were kilndried, a material no longer available and process no longer done these days, and assembled by skilled craftsmen, Camp Roberts' buildings started with a "hard body" that has made it resistant to insects such as termites, but is in a constant battle with other ravages of age: dry rot and a building's version of "baldness," the loss of shingles and roofing damage.

The camp's "circulation" systems are comprised largely of the "original equipment," with life expectancies of 25 to 50 years many times what was originally

Mon-Fri 6-8

"Where the

Hang Out"



Workers from Paso Robles Heating and Air Conditioning install a modern heating and air-condition system as part of the reconstruction of a building in the Soldier Readiness Processing Center. The building was one of two reconstructed with the help of local contractors and opened earlier this year.

needed, but now well past what could ever have been reasonably expected of them. The electrical switching and distribution system, "state-of-the-art" and ahead of its time in 1941, now strains under the power demands made by equipment that had only been a science-fiction dream back then.

With the camp only being used for a few months of the year by units conducting their Annual Training and only occasional use by units during the rest of the year, these conditions, while perhaps annoying, could be dealt with.

But since the terror attacks of 9/11 and the growing need for the California National Guard to mobilize, train, and deploy to the fighting fronts of Global War on Terrorism, Camp Roberts has once again risen up to face the challenge.

And now occupied nearly continuously year-round by mobilizing soldiers and soldiers supporting the mobilizations, the camp is getting the "surgery" necessary to keep it healthy and running.

Over 13,000 feet of natural gas mains were replaced last year in the first, most urgent, installment in replacing the camp's gas distribution system, replacing cast iron piping that had all but disintegrated in some places.

This work was originally expected to produce significant savings by reducing the amount of gas lost to leaking lines. Now with the price of natural gas expected to nearly dou-

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

In Fiscal Year 2003, local purchases totaling \$551,383 included these local businesses:

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**Home Depot** Walmart **Hayward Lumber Western Janitor Supply Trophy Town Alliance Towing Big Creek Lumber** The Blueprinter **R&R Sport Center** Nu Way **Suburban Propane** Source: 2004 Camp Roberts Economic Impact Report

The Tree Man

**Waynes Tire** 

**Staples** 

ble in the next few months as a result of Hurricane Katrina, "at least our gas bills won't be going up," says Brown.

**Bensers Chevron** 

Water and sewer lines and electrical distribution are being replaced or upgraded as work is being done to modernize troop billeting areas. Structural improvements, such as new floor tiles, improved energyefficient lighting and heating systems, and improvements to bath facilities are also done.

To improve security at the Main Gate, DPW was heavily involved with the redesign of the Main Gate checkpoint, including installation of the new guard shack, installation of lighting, and placement of barricades, resulting in better control and inspection of vehicles entering the

Still yet to come for DPW in its

immediate future: the modernization of the electrical switching station, virtually unchanged in its 65 years of 24/7 operation, and the removal of the camp's three former propane storage and distribution facilities. Brown said the old propane tanks, which were the camp's source of heating and cooking fuels before natural gas was brought to the camp and attached to the existing propane distribution grid, will be disconnected from the grid and taken to an outside company.

There, the tanks will be cut-up and the scrap metal reused, making it the camp's largest recycling project ever, according to Brown.

From the flood lights that light the airfield's windsock to the removal of propane storage tanks big or small, Camp Roberts DPW

# Team Camp Roberts



**Command Group and Directorate of Personnel and Resource Management** 



**Dining Facility** 



**Environmental Office** 



**Directorate of Logistics** 



Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security



**Mobilization Theater-Specific Individual Readiness Training Instructors** 



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# Small Towns with Big-City Heart: Soldier Support in the North County



Santa Barbara Co. 4-H Youth Round Table members traveled to Camp Roberts in January to present \$1,500 in phone cards to CNG troops deploying overseas. Youth leader Linda Greco organized the project.

Compiled by Lisa Norris
CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE 't is sometimes as simple as a nod of acknowledgement and respect as

they pass by. Other times, it is a proudly-expressed statement of appreciation and support that often spreads to others standing nearby. On occasion, it takes the form of a "random act of kindness" by a citizen who quietly picks-up the dinner tab of a soldier sitting at another table, leaving only a message with the waitress: "Thank you for your service." On more than one occasion the check for an entire table of soldiers totaling hundreds of dollars is covered.

And more than once, the citizens of the North County south of Camp Roberts have come together, united in their support of "The Troops," with events like the "Mother of All Barbeques" in 2003 and the "Welcome Home" parade and picnic for the 1498th Transportation Company in 2004.

Whether just here for training before their deployment to areas around the world or stationed at Camp Roberts to support them, the soldiers of the California National Guard have no doubt that the citizens of the North County neighboring Camp Roberts support them in a BIG way.



A solo sign of support along Highway 101 in San Miguel.



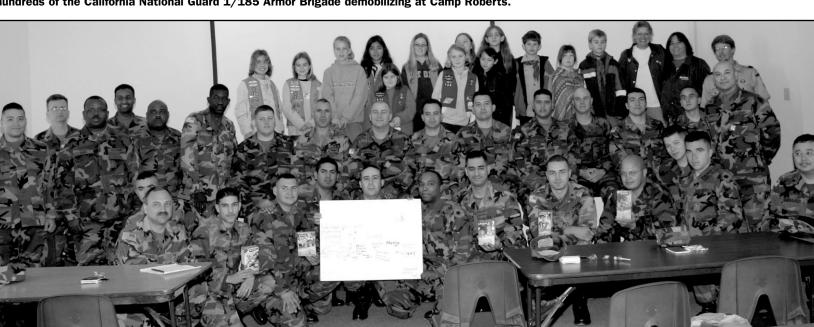
Paso Robles Wal-Mart manager Michelle Wilhoite, and associates, traveled to Camp Roberts to personally deliver goodie bags to California National Guard 1/185 Armor Brigade soldiers just back from Iraq



Heidi Velasco and Debra Patrick, both North County residents, came up with a very popular booth at a farewell event at Camp Roberts.



Jackie and Wally Nissen own several Taco Bells in the county. In February, the "Taco Bell Crew" set up a satellite store in an old mess hall and fed hundreds of the California National Guard f 1/185 Armor Brigade demobilizing at Camp Roberts.



In January, Girl Scout Troop 138 from Atascadero collected "donated" boxes of cookies to 'support the troops.' Members of the community purchased 52 boxes of cookies and at Camp Roberts the girls presented them to National Guard soldiers preparing to deploy to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

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Lt. Col. Richard Martin, Commander of the 746th Combat Service Support Battalion, and Robbie Morse, 756th Transportation Company Family Support Coordinator, present a certificate of appreciation to Atascadero Albertson's manager Dan Guzman for the store's support of the company's Family Farewell party.



In March, Girl Scout Troop 514, from Paso Robles, delivered cookies to USAR troops heading to Iraq.



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NOVEMBER 8, 2005

# From Iraq With Love



Gary McMaster
CAMP ROBERTS HISTORICAL MUSUEM

ith so much Army emphasis on our current operations in Iraq, it's not surprising that it is a subject of current focus at the Camp Roberts Historical Museum.

During the first Gulf War, not many National Guard soldiers did their pre-deployment training at Camp Roberts. However, a Russian wheeled vehicle and a Chinese antiaircraft gun, both captured from the Iraqis during that earlier conflict, found their way to the Museum. These impressive items, brought back with the help of California Guardsmen and State Military Reservists, still are a mainstay of the Museum's Gulf War exhibit.

In the present Operation Iraqi Freedom, the number of National Guard soldiers who have trained at Camp Roberts prior to being

deployed to Iraq, Saudi Arabia and other locations in the Middle East region is enormous. Many of those soldiers, thankful of the important training received at the camp, also remember the Camp Roberts Museum. Several officers, Non-Commission Officers and enlisted soldiers have brought items back from Iraq or sent them directly from Iraq to the Museum. The exhibits they have engendered are a tribute to the sacrifices of those soldiers, just like all of the Museum's exhibits on World War II and the Korean War are tributes to the sacrifices to past generations.

The Main Museum houses an interesting exhibit on Operation Iraqi Freedom that includes mannequins of a current US Army soldier wearing desert camouflage and all his equipment, plus an Iraqi Republican Guard soldier in desert uniform replete with all of his personal field gear. In addition there is for the ride!

Operation "We Care" Celebrates

a photo exhibit of soldiers performing their pre-deployment training as well as performing their duties in the Middle East, plus many artifacts brought back from Iraq. One unique display even includes small articles from Saddam Hussein's huge palace at the ancient city of Babylon.

In the Museum Annex (the WWII Camp Post Office) another mannequin equipped as an Iraqi Republican Guard soldier stands in a desert scene, armed with an AK-47 rifle. Various weapons charts, Iraqi flyers and other items direct from Iraq are tied in with the display. The Museum Gift Shop even offers visitors a chance to buy original surrender chits from the earlier Gulf War for a very nominal price.

So if you want to enjoy some of the Iraqi experience without getting shot at, go up and visit the Museum on a Thursday or Saturday, 9AM to 4PM. It won't even cost you a dime

# Courtesy of the Camp Roberts Museum

# Thank You To Those Who Served







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### its One Year Anniversary times. We are making positive and support of people who know changes." says Sue Miguel.

Kimberly Crawford Gorski PLANS AND MARKETING COORDINATOR OPERATION READY FAMILIES

he California National Guard's Operation Ready Families Program (ORFP) understands the importance of support and accessibility for our military service members and their families. Due to the level of deployment, ORFP has established the Family Assistance Network (FAN), a group of coordinators located throughout California.

FAN Coordinators are available to answer questions as well as pass on essential information to families and their service members who are involved in any branch of the mili-

The FAN also hosts once a month "We Care" meetings, covering topics from tax preparation and redeployment challenges to understanding your military benefits.

Founded in July of 2004 in Fresno by Bonnie Boggs and Sue Miguel, these meetings give service members and their families, friends and employers the opportunity to establish a local social support group as well as keep up to date on military news and benefits.

"Programs like [Operation We Care] really show our military community that the California National Guard is coming into the current

The Paso Robles branch of Operation We Care meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 240

The meeting, which is open to all branches of the service and military family members, offers participants a chance to receive the advice

what they're going through.

If you'd like more information about Operation We Care meetings or have questions, you can contact Clair Ruffner at 896-4029 or by e-

clair.ruffner@ca.ngb.army.mil.

Clair Ruffner, Camp Roberts FAN Coordinator, contributed to



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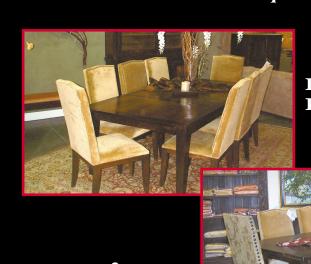


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